

**Boone County Watershed Committee
Don Williams Lake Watershed Improvement Project**

MEETING SUMMARY

May 6, 2010

7:00 pm

Don Williams Park Office

Attendees:

Andy Hockenson, Boone County Conservation Board, Project Vice-Chair
Neil Goeppinger, Boone County Conservation Board and Farmer
Bill Lees, Property Owner
Chad Curry, Farmer
John Paulin, Prairies Rivers of Iowa RC&D, Meeting Facilitator
Bill Martin, Boone County Soil & Water Conservation District staff
Bob Powers, Boone County resident
Bill Lusher, Boone County Supervisor
Scott Smith, Boone County Landfill/KBCB, Project Secretary
Lois Powers, Boone County Landfill/KBCB
Lisa Anderson, Boone County Landfill/KBCB
Jeremy Johannsen, NRCS

Welcome & Introductions: John Paulin served as meeting facilitator and asked everyone in attendance to introduce themselves.

During introductions, Bill Lees asked if drainage district tile lines would be included in the plan process. Smith stated that the issue should be researched.

Recap of January 27, 2010 Meeting: John provided a brief recap of the January 27, 2010 meeting.

Project Activities Update:

- June 2&3 Iowater Class: Lisa described the IOWATER program. IOWATER, a DNR program, trains volunteers about water quality monitoring and provides watersampling supplies. This will be the first time an IOWATER training class has been held in Boone County. It is a two evening program that will be held from 4:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Don Williams Park Shelter House. A minimum of 12 and maximum of 35 attendees are needed for the class. Registration info can be obtained by calling the Landfill at 515.433.0591 or by emailing Lisa at lisak@boonelandfill.org.

- Website: Scott provided information on the web page that has been developed for the project. It will serve as “home-base” for anyone wanting to follow the progress of the Committee’s efforts. The page can be found under “Watershed Protection” in the “Keep Boone County Beautiful” section of the Boone County site: www.boonecounty.iowa.gov.
- MWEC: Scott stated that the Mobile Watershed Education Center is just about ready to receive its exterior artwork.
- Property Owner Permissions/Bill Martin/Stream and Gully Assessment: Scott and Bill commented that the Conservation District is receiving back permission forms from watershed property owners that will allow Bill to conduct on-site stream and gully assessments. DNR will provide a handheld computer that will allow Bill to directly input what he finds. This information will be compiled by the DNR.
- Stream Table: John spoke about the stream table and how it can provide a visual learning opportunity about how erosion occurs. Scott added that plans to construct a trailer-based table have been modified to use the table top model that County Conservation already owns. The new plan involves making a DVD based presentation to demonstrate the same issues as the stream table.

Review/Adopt Vision Statement: The group quickly reached consensus that although the message developed for the vision statement in January was “on target”; the language was too “bureaucratic” and not easily understood. The discussion to make to make the language easier to understand and thus more meaningful was led by Bill Lees, Chad Curry and Neil Goeppinger. After much discussion the following language was proposed:

Vision Statement:

Establish the Don Williams Lake Watershed Project as a study in the joining of people and processes leading to ecological health, recreational enjoyment and Iowa’s agriculture for future generations.

Motion made by Smith, seconded by Lusher to approve the above vision statement. Motion was unanimously approved.

Have a Look at the Lake and Open Discussion: Given the time of evening the group decided to forego looking at the lake at this point in the meeting.

Neil asked about the previous study that had been conducted maybe 12 years ago. Scott mentioned that Tom Foster had mentioned this as well. Apparently some landowners

participated in some NRCS programs but not many. Bill Martin will review that study before he proceeds to do on-site assessments.

Andy asked what incentives are available to landowners. Jeremy provided a summary of the available programs and their monetary inducements. It appears that the incentives have improved significantly since the efforts of 12+ years ago. **Further info is available at the NRCS Iowa website: <http://www.ia.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/booneeqip.html>**

Andy then used a 2009 aerial photo to demonstrate what is occurring in the lake with regards to siltation. An island is developing at the mouth of Bluff Creek where it empties into the lake. This island was not present on the 2005 aerial photo.

Neil pointed out that the Conservation Board had purchased 11 acres upstream with the hopes of constructing a sedimentation pond. However, the project would also need to obtain flood easements from upstream property owners and that effort has not been successful to date.

Scott stated that he will obtain maps of the various drainage districts that empty into the watershed. He also stated that the DNR had shared that they are learning from other projects that gully erosion is often a more significant factor than first thought. John added DNR has plenty of examples for us to learn from and that this watershed, at 22,000 acres is quite extensive.

Bill Lees added that he deals with two drainage districts that discharge within his property.

Chad asked about the federal funding that could become available if a plan is developed and approved. John described the “319 Funding” that could be provided by the USEPA. It in turn can help leverage other funding.

Wrap Up/Next Steps: Scott will add historical aerials to the website to demonstrate the siltation issue at the lake. He will also add a link to the Iowa Lakes Valuation Project.

For the next meeting, hardcopies of the following will be handed out:

Drainage Districts

Streams and Tributaries

DNR maps

Andy then shared a map detailing lake depths measured in 1974, 1977, and 1980.

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.